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water quality and you:

A new regional program is aimed at improving the quality of all Southern California waters. According to federal law, all bodies of water — from small mountain streams to the Santa Ana River and Pacific Ocean — must be "swimmable" and "fishable" by 1983.

Can we do this? The Congress thinks so, and has set in motion the "208" planning process to accomplish it. Acting under provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Section 208), the State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have designated the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) as the agency to perform water quality management planning in the South Coast area.

What does this mean for the Southland?

Simply, SCAG has made an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency as part of a national effort to achieve clean water standards. SCAG must develop and adopt an areawide wastewater treatment plan that contains solutions to our water quality problems. The plan will place major emphasis on management policies, in addition to identifying pollution sources and the means to control them. It will also establish priorities, time schedules and financial arrangements to carry out the plan.

By law, the planning process must include citizens and elected officials throughout the South Coast area. After the plan is reviewed and approved by the public, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Environmental Protection Agency, implementation will begin immediately. The SCAG plan, which will span 20 years, is due in November 1978 and must meet the 1983 federal water quality standards.

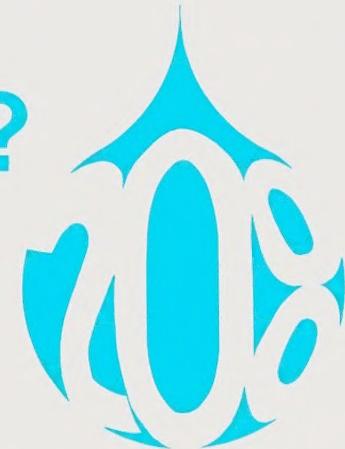
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what is section 208?

The planning process under Section 208 calls upon governments to work together to solve their common water quality management problems. It helps local jurisdictions fund planning costs, as well as find solutions for both environmental and developmental problems. The 208 program also calls for the selection of a management structure to carry out the plan. Another unique feature is its tie-in with air quality maintenance. By uniting the two related issues, the program enables planners to explore problems related to the entire environment. Finally, it helps local agencies solve water quality problems where standard technologies might not do the job.



goals:

Briefly, the SCAG 208 plan should:

- include extensive public support and be politically and financially feasible.
- organize solutions to water quality problems within a broad planning and management context.
- be well coordinated with other federal, state and local agency programs and allow for continuous evaluation and updating.
- consider the relationships between water quality, land use and air quality. Programs should also minimize social, economic and environmental disruption.

issues:

However, nonpoint sources of pollution — the focus of SCAG's water quality planning program — are harder to identify and treat. They are related to agriculture, forestry, mining and construction activities, as well as saltwater intrusion into groundwater.

Yet, the management of clean water is no less important than finding technical solutions to our water problems. Water quality management comes in two forms: structural and nonstructural.

Structural water quality management means identifying and designing facilities to control water pollution. Pipes in the ground and treatment plants are examples of such "structures."

Nonstructural water quality management refers to such measures as clean water regulations or the education of major water users, including farmers or industry. It can also refer to land use measures, including density controls and flood plain ordinances.

One type of problem to be considered in the SCAG plan is water runoff. For example, after a rainstorm, water runoff picks up rubber, gasoline and even chemical fertilizers from the ground. This street grime eventually seeps into our water supply, either directly or through urban sewer systems.

How can we control the pollution that washes into our sewer system after every rainfall? Can we find corrective methods which are effective but don't require the construction of expensive treatment plants?

These and other questions must be answered in the SCAG plan. But solutions can not come from technology alone. The plan must also serve the best interests of the people in the area—both now and in the future.

who's involved?

The best possible water quality plan requires the help of many citizens, elected officials, technicians and agencies. More than 50 people serve on the SCAG 208 Water Quality Program Committee. In addition to elected officials, the committee includes representatives from cities and counties, as well as sanitation and flood control districts. This group provides technical review and guidance to the SCAG Executive Committee, which has primary decision-making responsibility for the program, and the Environmental Quality and Resource Conservation Committee, which is active in all phases of 208 planning and implementation. Further guidance is provided by the 208 Citizens' Advisory Committee, a 55-member group of representatives from business, civic and environmental groups, as well as the public at-large.



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why is a water quality plan needed?

environmental protection • economics
quality of life • energy consumption
land use • water conservation
air quality • public health

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about SCAG:

Led by local elected officials, SCAG is a planning and coordinating agency that works to solve problems which extend beyond local boundaries. These regional problems, such as transportation, housing and environmental quality, affect more than 10 million people who live in the Southland. SCAG's members are the governments of six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura), and 126 cities within those counties. For over 10 years, these members have shown that local governments can work together and still preserve their separate identities.

how can you help?



First of all, figure out what you'd like to know about water quality. Once you know the basic issues, you can become involved in the planning process at key stages.

To help citizens do this, SCAG will sponsor a number of subregional, issue-oriented workshops. At these meetings, you can question and discuss portions of the plan which directly affect your own community. Public hearings will be held when key elements of the plan are completed. Furthermore, SCAG will conduct a series of seminars purely for the education of the public on matters pertaining to clean water. And be sure to let SCAG know how you feel at public hearings, workshops or by writing or calling.

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I would like to be on the SCAG 208 mailing list and learn more about water quality:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

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